

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

Despite the increase in available media outlets, these outlets are being consolidated in fewer and fewer hands, primarily in the hands of large corporate conglomerates. This has resulted in a decrease, not an increase, in the diversity of ideas available. Media content is increasingly dominated by commercial messages and messages favoring corporate interests. Other ideas and cultural expressions are driven to the margins. News content critically analyzing corporate and government behavior are increasingly scarce.

The relaxation of rules promoting and protecting diversity of media ownership will perpetuate and aggravate this trend. These rules need to be strengthened, not relaxed.